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John J. Marley
Date of Signature 10-5-00



PATENT

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Docket No.: 1179/2/2

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, applicants' undersigned attorney brings to the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office the following references. Copies of the references as well as Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B are attached hereto. This is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that a reference is relevant merely because cited.

U.S. Patent No. 3,699,103 to Kiss discloses a process for the manufacture of 5-desoxy-L-arabinose and novel intermediates.

U.S. Patent No. 4,124,748 to Fujimoto et al. discloses a cross-linked saponified absorbent polymer.

U.S. Patent No. 4,134,748 to Hileman et al. discloses a linkage for operating a mold for a glass making machine.

U.S. Patent No. 4,354,901 to Kopolow discloses flexible absorbent boards.

U.S. Patent No. 4,381,782 to Mazurak et al. discloses highly absorbent materials having good wicking characteristics which comprise hydrogel particles and surfactant treated filler.

U.S. Patent No. 4,605,401 to Chmelir et al. discloses a material for the absorption of water, aqueous solutions and aqueous body fluids.

U.S. Patent No. 4,699,823 to Kellenberger et al. discloses a non-layered absorbent insert having z-directional superabsorbent concentration gradient.

U.S. Patent No. 5,124,188 to Roe et al. discloses porous, absorbent, polymeric macrostructures and methods of making the same.

U.S. Patent No. 5,125,188 to Ogawa et al. discloses a grinding wheel having grinding monitoring and automatic wheel balance control functions.

U.S. Patent No. 5,154,713 to Lind discloses enhancing absorption rates of superabsorbents by incorporating a blowing agent.

U.S. Patent No. 5,229,466 to Brehm et al. discloses a powdery absorbing material for aqueous liquids based on water-swellable carboxylate polymers.

U.S. Patent No. 5,399,591 to Smith et al. discloses a superabsorbent polymer having improved absorption rate and absorption under pressure.

U.S. Patent No. 5,610,220 to Klimmek et al. discloses powder-form polymers which absorb, even under pressure, aqueous liquids and blood, a method of producing them and their use in textile articles for body-hygiene applications.

U.S. Patent No. 5,408,019 to Mertens et al. discloses a cross-linked water-absorbing polymer and its use in the production of hygiene items.

PCT International Publication No. WO 95/32860 to Bruggemann et al. discloses a layered element for the absorption of liquids, and has priority to German P 44 18 319.4, which matured into German Patent No. 44 18 319 A1. The abstract of WO 95/32860 is in English.

European Patent Application No. 0 530 517 A1 to Tsai discloses a method of treating water-insoluble superabsorbent materials.

Japanese Patent No. 89026736 B, assigned to Sanyo Chem. Ind. Ltd., discloses an absorbent material for diapers. The abstract is in English.

Journal article by Westphal entitled "Bonding Options for Airlaid Webs", *Nonwovens World*, Spring 1997, pp. 63-69.

Early passage of the subject application to issue is earnestly solicited.

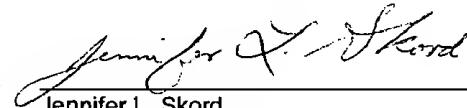
Although it is believed that no fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies of payment associated with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement to Deposit Account No. 50-0426.

Respectfully submitted,

JENKINS & WILSON, P.A.

Date: October 5, 2000

By:


Jennifer L. Skord
Registration No. 30,687

Suite 1400 University Tower
3100 Tower Boulevard
Durham, North Carolina 27707
Telephone: (919) 493-8000
Facsimile: (919) 419-0383

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Enclosures